

Current Comment on Public Events

Is it possible that the Blade has thoughtlessly been guilty of wasting its space?

Is it possible that Messrs. Heald, Hayes and Thorn have deliberately thrown away opportunities for obtaining facts, instead of theories, about the planet Mars?

Had we all known of the matter in time, much patient labor might have been saved, useful brain power diverted to some other and equally important channel, instead of struggling after physical facts to find out by observation and experiment, whether or not Mars has canals or mountains, plains or great seas, men or monkeys.

In a recent issue of the Sunflower, a Spiritualist paper published at Hamburg, N. Y., an alleged medium, whose name is given as "Mrs. Smead," comes out with a message from the ruddy planet, which, though using an alphabet similar to our own, but in construction resembling an admixture of Greek and Latin, showing conclusively, to Spiritualists, that Mars is not only habitable, but actually habited by sentient beings. Mrs. Smead proves this by her own statement that she has been to Mars, in the spirit, and held converse with the Martian people. Of course, the spirit came back to earth and she is able to translate the communication for the benefit of those who may be inclined to believe her story.

To give the fake an appearance of truth it is published under a New York date line, dated August 5. It reads:

"Ti ryre neu infew mare laries en fratur triuen carmie."

The article then goes on to suggest that the reader may not know the language thus employed, and suggests that it is a "sentence from the universal tongue spoken on the planet Mars." Of course, it also stated that the sentence was obtained from a spirit "alleged to communicate" through the personality of the "celebrated Mrs. Smead." The attempt then follows to give a translation of the sentence, (which is interpreted to be as follows:

"The man chief ruler's place in which looks on your earth from Mars."

Honest Injun! But it does look like a case of bunko. People who make profit upon the credulity of the childish and simple, invariably strive to acquire wide advertisement. Nothing is better calculated to offer such means of advertisement than to make preposterous claims of mysticism. Assuming that Mars was inhabited and that the people had a language, it is impossible that they should adopt a system of vowels and consonants similar to our own with which to produce articulate vocabulary. Again, assuming even all this to be true, it is absurd to suppose that a translation could be made, literally, by such means. The Blade has no desire to injure any woman's professional possibilities, but any attempt to make money or profit of any character out of such grossly fraudulent representations is too reprehensible to escape without notice in this day and age of fact.

But this is where the spirit medium has got the bulge on all the Blade writers who have been discussing the condition of the

ruddy planet. Brother Hayes gives an array of facts to support his theories. Brother Heald replies with some more facts to sustain another and different theory. Brother Thorn chips in with his ideas on the same subject, when, could they only have known it, direct information from Mars could have been given them with but little effort by simply communicating with the "celebrated Mrs. Smead."

Ah, me! What errors in judgment we fall heir to through not knowing the precise path to follow! Students of Mars, put aside your telescopes. Stop theorizing! Send the "celebrated Mrs. Smead" a small disk of gold with an eaglet engraved thereon by your Uncle Samuel, and you can get all the information you want concerning Mars and its people.

Moses wrote actual history.

Moses is corroborated and Egypt actually suffered seven years of famine, as predicted by Joseph, the male person in the Potiphar scandal.

This is no "goak."

"The patient work of the excavator and the scholarly toil of the decipherer of records on stone and papyrus are slowly but surely revealing the secrets of ancient Egypt."

So writes the London correspondent of the New York Sun, and that newspaper, once the pride of a great journalist, actually plays it up to a finish in an effort to cater to the bible advocates.

The alleged facts that one Brugsch Bey, while digging in the land of the Pharaohs, at Thebes, is reported to have discovered and deciphered a hieroglyphic record tending to prove that the seven years of famine which fell upon Egypt, following seven years of plenty, as related in Genesis, was actually a fact in history, and he undertakes to prove this by a translation of his find, showing that during the seven years mentioned, the Nile failed to overflow its banks and inundate the surrounding country by which means alone the inhabitants thereof were able to produce vegetation.

By looking at the bible record Prof. Brugsch has discovered that this famine is supposed to have occurred about 1700 B. C. It was then an easy matter for him to translate his find and make it read for the same period of time, thereby corroborating the bible. Bible corroboration is thus rendered comparatively easy, but we are prone to ask that if the bible is a record of historical data, compiled under a direct inspiration from the deity, it needs no corroboration, for the truths it contains would thus be made self evident. The very fact that these repeated finds are used to gull the public, unsuspecting, of course, into a belief that bible corroboration is thus offered, indicates a doubt in the mind of the finder and that his conduct becomes necessary to bolster up the work of the almighty.

The trouble is that while the bible story is looked upon as a mere fancy, the translation of Prof. Brugsch will be taken only as a rank fake of the first water. The wonder is that he is unable to appreciate

the fact that he is making himself a laughing stock for the whole world of scholarship. But just as there were fools in the alleged time of Moses, so there will continue to be fools as long as mankind will tolerate such trifling with history.

Falling to give value received for the cash consideration agreed upon, an alleged evangelist, passing current under the cognomen of Rev. John Newton Lyle, operating near New York City, got into a difficulty with the pastors of the neighborhood, who had employed him, with the result that the resident parsons tore down the tent in which he was holding forth nightly and one of the parsons, overseeing the job, was arrested for grand larceny. Hauled before the Harlem police court the feud was renewed and instead of dwelling and working together in unity, for the common cause of graft, there is blood upon the evangelistic moon.

To properly appreciate this incident, our readers must understand that the professional gospel-spouting evangelist first proceeds to lay before resident pastors, the grounds that constitute a necessity for his laboring in that district. Unmindful of the fact that his proposal is an implied criticism of their own work, the evangelist proceeds to point out the advantages to their respective congregations, provided they consent to employ him, and an agreement can be reached concerning the rake-off. But it is also known that the rake-off is a fixture in preaching. Salvation is said to be free, but the preachers must have cash. In some cases a sort of guarantee is given that so many "souls" shall be won to Christ, and the evangelist can usually get out of a tight hole, for if the "sinners" do not "repent" fast enough to enable him to keep up his contract, he hires a few unknown parties to start the conversion racket, and once under way the people are calculated upon to follow in like a flock of sheep. Some such bargain had been made between Evangelist Lyle and the local preachers, but Lyle failed, the preachers were disappointed, and, wishing to cut down expenses by getting rid of Lyle, they took away his tent, left the poles standing, but Lyle worked on without a tent, ignored the preachers, and evangelized on his own hook. Now the preachers are mad clean through, Lyle is on the war path, and the religion of meekness and humility is being demonstrated to the people who do attend by its professors and advocates.

The Blade is gratified that the good work of exposing the shams and frauds of modern Christianity is thus being carried out. It has been well said that when "thieves fall out, honest men will get their dues," and the more the clergy and their allies quarrel over the spoils of evangelizing campaigns, the sooner will the entire system be brought into such public disrepute that it will be no longer tolerated. Sic 'em.

Freethought in Turkey! Well, well! Wonders will never cease!

Mohammedan to the core, and conspicuous for heartless cruelties, Turkey has long been a sore spot on the world's history of progress and development.

True, Christianity cannot be charged up with the offenses committed in the name of Mohammed, but the point we wish to make is that Mohammedanism, like Christianity, is a form of superstition and equally